

# Looking for the Cat in the Ghat

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Read  
Aloud



**Deepa**



**Sandesh**



**Tim**

Characters





Deepa and Tim are student conservationists. Today, they take a trip to the Western Ghat with a famous wildlife photographer named Sandesh. Sandesh takes photos of animals that live in the wild.

Tim hopes to see many interesting animals and take pictures with his camera. Deepa wants to use her new invention to talk to the animals.



On the first day of their trip, they see a mysterious white cat with black stripes. They have never seen an animal like this one before. They are so excited! When Tim tries to take a picture of the feline, the huge cat suddenly disappears into the forest.



The team feels disappointed because the photo Tim took of the mysterious white cat with black stripes is blurry.

Sandesh says, "This might be the mysterious Cat in the Ghat of great fame. No one has ever taken a picture of him before."

Tim and Deepa are curious about this mysterious Cat in the Ghat and they make a plan to use Deepa's invention to ask the other animals where the Cat in the Ghat is hiding.





The team starts walking through the Western Ghat. First, they see a herd of elephants bathing in the river. They ask the family of elephants, "Have you seen a huge white cat with black stripes?"

But the elephants just spray water from their long trunks. One elephant brags, "Humph, do I look like a tiny cat to you? We are the largest animals in the Western Ghat. We have our own problems. Go away!"

Tim takes a photo of the gigantic elephants, and the team leaves.



Next, they see a tiger resting in the grass. The team feels scared, but Deepa works up the courage to ask the tiger, "Excuse me Mr. Tiger, have you seen a huge white cat with black stripes?"

The tiger roars and says proudly, "No, can't you can see I am not a huge white cat with black stripes, I am huge orange cat with black stripes? I cannot help you. I have my own problems. Go away!"

Tim quickly takes a photo of the tiger and the team runs away.





Then, the team goes further into the forest when they hear a rustling noise coming from the bushes. It is a herd of deer walking through the trees.

Deepa asks the deer, "Have you seen a huge white cat with black stripes?" One of the the deer replies, "No, we are scared of huge cats. We stay away from them. We have our own problems. Go away!"

The team does not want to give up, so they go deeper into the forest.





Next, the team meets a monkey climbing on a branch. Deepa asks the monkey, "Have you seen a huge white cat with black stripes?"

The monkey screeches, "Why should I help you, after what people have done to the forest? I have my own problems. Go away!"

Deepa replies, "We just want to take pictures of beautiful animals like you."

The monkey laughs and smiles, "You think I'm beautiful? Ok, I can help you. Go to the pond and find the green frog with the yellow stripe down his back. The frog knows everything about the forest."

The grateful team thanks the monkey and goes to look for the frog in the pond.



When the team reaches the pond, Deepa spots the frog with the yellow stripe on his back. Deepa asks the frog, "Have you seen the huge white cat with black stripes?"

The frog croaks back, "Yes, you are seeking Pom-Pom. He is the mysterious Cat in the Ghat of great fame. He is the only white tiger in the Western Ghat, but he fears people because of what they have done to the forest. If you want to find Pom-Pom, keep walking towards the stream. But Pom-Pom won't want to talk to you."

The team feels confused and follows the trail towards the stream.





As the team walks towards the stream, they see that many of the mighty trees of the Western Ghat have been cut down. Deepa cries out, "This is the problem the animals were talking about! Their homes are being cut down, and they have nowhere to live."

Tim thinks for a moment, and says, "I have a plan! We need to show the world what is happening in the Western Ghat. Let's take photos to show people at home what is happening here."

Sandesh adds, "That is a good plan. If people knew about the beautiful animals that live here, they would want to preserve the forest, to save it for future generations."



Finally, the team reaches the stream, where they see the mysterious Cat in the Ghat drinking water. As the team approaches, he starts to turn away, but Deepa yells, "Wait, Pom-Pom. We need your help to save the Western Ghat."

Pom-Pom answers, "The only people that come to the forest want to cut down the trees. The trees of the forest are my home. How can you possibly help?"



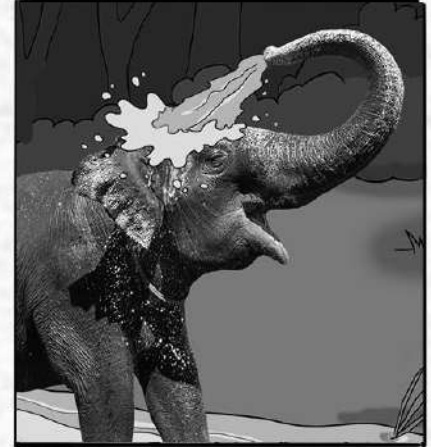
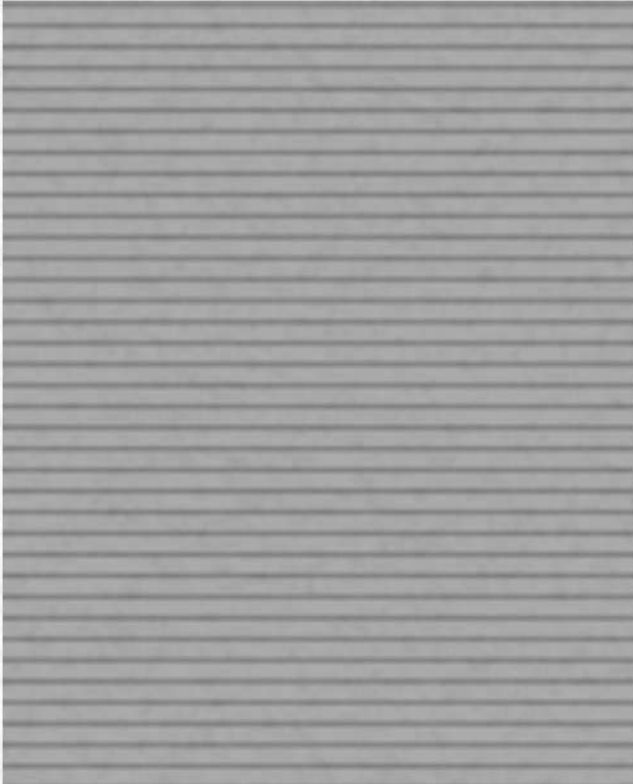


Deepa says, "No one has ever seen a photo of the mysterious Cat in the Ghat before. If we can take your picture, we can use it to inspire people to protect your habitat."

"Hmmm," says Pom-Pom. "That's a good idea! You may take my photo to use to tell the world to preserve the Western Ghat. It is not just my home, but it is also the home to many species of animals that need to be protected."

The team agrees, and they take the photo of Pom-Pom.

# Save The Western Ghat!



Sandesh, Deepa, and Tim write a newspaper article about the destruction of the forest. They explain that people are cutting down all the trees. They write about how important the trees are for the animals to survive. The animals cannot live without the trees that give shelter and food. They include pictures of all the animals they met on their trip through the Western Ghat.



## Map of India



Western Ghat



Deepa and Tim give a report to their classmates. They tell them how they took pictures of the animals of the Western Ghat and how important it is to protect their habitat.

The students are fascinated by the pictures of the mysterious Cat in the Ghat. They want to spread the word to many people about preserving the forests of the Western Ghat.

# Map of India



## Western Ghat Facts

- Considered one of the top 10 hotspots in biological diversity in the world.
- The mountains of the Western Ghat are older than the Himalayan mountains.
- There are at least 139 species of mammals in the Western Ghat region.
- The forests and rivers of the Western Ghat are considered critically endangered by the World Wildlife Federation





# India in the World



# Looking for the Cat in the Ghat

Inspired by the story: **Cat in the Ghat**

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